AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of the claims.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving, from a remote device, ~~at a computing device~~ at least one risk/return preference that is provided by a user;

selecting, based on the at least one risk/return preference, a plurality of instruments comprising: ~~at least one equity instrument and at least one fixed return instrument;~~

    (i)   a first financial instrument of a first type that comprises an intellectual property right; and

    (ii)   a second financial instrument of a second type, in which the second type differs from the first type;

storing at [[a]] the computing device the selected plurality of instruments in an investment trust that ~~, in which the investment trust comprises a the plurality of selected instruments and~~ is traded on an exchange, ~~and~~ in which the remote device and the computing device are in communication via a network ~~at least one equity instrument and the at least one fixed return instrument of the investment trust may be traded separately from the investment trust~~;

tracking ~~by~~ via a computing device a performance of the investment instrument and a performance of each of the selected plurality of instruments on the exchange;

storing at [[a]] the computing device the performances ~~of each of the selected plurality of instruments~~ in a database ~~, in which the database comprises a plurality of performances for each of the selected plurality of instruments of the investment trust~~; and

determining by [[a]] the computing device, based on the performances, to trade at least one share of the investment trust; and

transmitting via the computing device a request to trade the share of the investment trust.

Applicant : Andrew H. Pritchard   Attorney's Docket No.: CF-24
Serial No. : 09/927,628
Filed   : August 10, 2001
Page   : 3

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

determining, based on a performance of at least one of the selected plurality of

instruments, to trade the at least one instrument; and

transmitting <u>via the computing device</u> ~~by a computer processor~~ a request to trade the at

least one instrument on the exchange.

3.   (Cancelled).

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which the <u>act of tracking the</u>

performance of ~~one~~ <u>each</u> of the selected plurality of instruments <u>further</u> comprises ~~at least~~

~~one of~~:

monitoring a value of <u>each</u> ~~the~~ selected instrument in real-time; and

monitoring a value of <u>each</u> ~~the~~ selected instrument over a period of time.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] <u>1</u>, <u>in which the act of tracking the</u>

<u>performance of the investment trust</u> further <u>comprises:</u> ~~comprising calculating a value of~~

~~each of the selected plurality of instruments in the investment trust;~~

~~adjusting the value of each selected instrument by an external factor;~~

<u>computing, based on the determined value of each selected instrument,</u> ~~generating~~

an aggregate value of the ~~investment instrument, in which the aggregate value is derived~~

~~from the adjusted value of each selected instrument in the~~ investment trust; and

<u>adjusting</u> ~~transmitting a request to sell each share of the investment trust at~~ the

aggregate value <u>by an external factor</u> ~~on the exchange~~.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, in which the external factor

comprises at least one of:

a <u>management</u> cost ~~of managing the selected instrument~~;

an income accrued from <u>each of</u> the selected <u>plurality of</u> instrument;

<u>a fee associated with a custody;</u> and

a fee associated with clearing <u>cost</u> ~~custody~~.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining that <u>at least</u> one ~~of the selected plurality of~~ instrument~~s~~ <u>of the investment</u>

<u>trust</u> has expired<u>, in which the at least one instrument comprises a type</u>; <u>and</u>

<u>replacing the expired instrument with a new instrument, in which the new instrument</u>

<u>shares the same type with the at least one instrument.</u>

~~selecting a second instrument from the database, in which the second instrument~~

~~comprises a risk/return preference that is similar to that of the expired instrument;~~

~~transmitting a request to purchase the second instrument on the exchange; and~~

~~removing the expired investment instrument from the investment trust; and~~

~~storing the second instrument in the investment trust.~~

8-16.   (Cancelled).

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which the <u>second type of the</u>

<u>second financial instrument</u> ~~plurality of instruments~~ comprises ~~an intellectual property~~

~~right and~~ at least one of:

        a stock,

        a bond,

        a debt instrument,

        an exchange traded-fund,

        a mutual fund,

        a currency,

        a commodity,

        an equity investment,

        a futures investment,

        a futures contract, ~~and~~

        a dividend-paying investment,

~~a right to receive royalties,~~

a real property, <u>and</u>

~~or~~ a personal property.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the risk/return preference comprises at least one of:

a growth in equity that is selected by the user,

a rate of return that is selected by the user, and

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving a request to redeem the investment trust;

calculating a value of the investment trust; and

converting the investment trust into the value in cash.

20.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 1.

21.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 2.

22.   (Cancelled).

23.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 4.

24.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 5.

25.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 6.

26.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 7.

27.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 17.

28.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 18.

29.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 19.

30.   Cancelled.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, <u>in which the first type of the first financial instrument comprises at least one of:</u>
       ~~wherein the intellectual property right comprises~~

a right to receive royalties on a copyright; and

a right to receive royalties on a patent.

32.   Cancelled.

33.   (New) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 31.